

REMARKS

The Specification and the Abstract have been amended. Claims 8-28 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Thus, claims 1-7 are now pending in the above-referenced application. No new matter has been added. Applicants acknowledge that the canceled claims were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the election without traverse made in response to the restriction requirement.

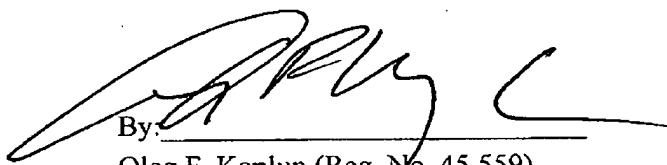
The Examiner has objected to the specification because the Abstract and specification contain some informalities. In view of the amendments made thereto, Applicants request withdrawal of this objection. Note that the paragraph numbering in the amendment follows what appears in the published version of the application, which differs from that of the application as originally filed.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,205,834 to Moorehead et al. Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite that "the mounting portion covers a minority of a surface area of the lumen occluding portion in which the slit is disposed." Support for this amendment is found at least in Figure 4 and its associated description in the specification. The Examiner has likened the recited mounting and lumen occluding portions to discs 120 and 124. Nevertheless, as is plainly illustrated in Figure 5 of Moorehead, disc 120 covers a majority, not minority, of the surface area of the surface in disc 124 where slit 146 is disposed. Thus, in view of this discussion, Moorehead does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moorehead. Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moorehead in view of United States Patent No. 5,944,698 to Fischer et al. Since Fischer does not overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to Moorehead, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 4-7 are patentable for at least the same reasons given above.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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